



# The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of Governors Committee on  
Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Alan Mabe

DATE: February 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Report on Nursing

### **Background:**

The Committee receives an annual report on Nursing that provides data on enrollment, degrees completed, and performance on the NCLEX examination which is the entry exam for being able to practice as a Registered Nurse.

### **Jurisdictional Authority:**

The Board requires an annual report on the performance of nursing programs to determine if they are meeting Board policy on required performance levels.

### **Issues Involved:**

One program, NCA&T State University has been put on warning by the NC Board of Nursing based on their performance in 2010.

The Chancellor at FSU voluntarily suspended admission to the Nursing Program at FSU in 2009 due to the performance of the graduates on the NCLEX. The two subsequent classes that have been taught out achieved NCLEX percentage passing scores of 88% and 100%. Chancellor Anderson seeks to restart the program with class sizes in the range of 25-30 students. He has sought Board of Nursing approval for restarting the program in 2011. As indicated in Chancellor Anderson's attached letter, he also seeks University of North Carolina endorsement for restarting the program.

**Recommended Action:** Since the Chancellor voluntary suspended admission, the Nursing Program at FSU still exists and does not need to be approved again. However, the President wants to consult with the committee about endorsing the restarting of the Nursing Program at FSU.



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of Governors Committee on  
Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Alan Mabe

DATE: February 1, 2011

SUBJECT: UNC Nursing Exam Results for 2010 and  
Nursing Enrollment and Degrees Conferred Report

### UNC Board of Governors' Policy and Annual Reporting Requirements

In May 1990, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors adopted the following policy and performance standards for UNC nursing programs:

A requirement that the President will consider, jointly with the Chancellor, an evaluation of the leadership, faculty, admissions policies and the curriculum of any program whose graduates do not achieve for two consecutive years an annual passing rate of 85% for first-time writers, and, a requirement that the President will ask the Board to initiate program termination procedures for any program having a first-time passing rate of less than 75% for two consecutive years.

This report on enrollment and passing rates for licensure for the UNC nursing programs is prepared annually in accord with this Board policy. The UNC nursing students who took the NCLEX-RN exam for the first time in 2010 passed at an average rate of 90%. The state-wide passing rate was 88%. Five UNC campuses had passing rates at or above 90% (ECU, FSU, UNC-CH, UNCP, and WCU) and the same five were at or above 95%. FSU had the highest pass rate at 100 followed closely by WCU at 98% and ECU which had a rate of 97%. ECU produced the most students who were successful on the NCLEX, 260, followed by UNC-CH with 209.

All campuses are in compliance with the Board of Governors' standard. NCA&T which is at 61% was at 88% the previous year.

### **NC Board of Nursing Standards**

The Board of Nursing has revised its standard for NCLEX passing rates for Nursing Programs. Previously the standard had been at 75%. If a program fell below that rate it was put on warning and was required to prepare and file with the Board of Nursing a plan to address the factors in the program that needed to be improved to bring the passing rate to the required level.

The Board of Nursing has adopted a new standard that requires NCLEX passing rates for first-time writers be at 95% of the national pass rate or greater based on a rolling three-year average. The Board is in the process of implementing this plan. For 2010, the requirement was 95% of the national pass rate or greater, using a three-year average pass rate for calendar years 2008, 2009, and 2010. That standard for 2010 first time writers is 83%.

In the case of FSU, the Chancellor suspended new enrollment in the Nursing Program in 2009 so it is not being measured by the Board of Nursing. However, the class graduating in 2010 had a 100% pass rate. FSU is in discussion with General Administration and the Board of Nursing about potentially restarting the program in 2011 with a small entering class. President Ross is prepared, subject to consultation with the Educational Planning Committee, to endorse FSU's request to the Board of Nursing to restart their Nursing Program with beginning classes in the 25-30 range.

While NCA&T's nursing program had progressed in recent years, for 2010 it had a passing rate of 61%. As indicated, the Board of Nursing uses a three-year rolling average. In the case of NCA&T that average was 80% which is below the Board of Nursing standard of 83%. This has resulted in the Board of Nursing placing the Nursing Program at NCA&T on warning status until 2011 data is available. In the meantime the program must provide a report to the Board of Nursing that includes a self-assessment and a corrective action plan by March 11, 2011. That report will also be provided to General Administration.

### **Nursing Programs**

The Board of Governors approved a new program in Nursing at ASU for 2010. It starting up in the summer of 2010 bringing the total number of pre-licensure programs in the system to 12. (FSU has suspended new admissions to its program but graduated a senior class for 2010.) According to the North Carolina Board of Nursing, the total number of students taking the NCLEX exam in 2010 from UNC programs was 1,099.

### **UNC Nursing Enrollment**

Following a statewide taskforce on nursing, the Board of Governors formed a Board Committee to review the recommendations of the task force and make recommendations for expanding the production of nursing graduates at various levels. Key among those recommendations was to set in motion the doubling of the number of pre-licensure nurses produced by UNC, the expansion of the Master of Nursing in Nursing Education to provide faculty for community colleges so they can expand their programs to produce more nurses, increase the level of education of nurses with an expansion of RN to BSN programs, and expansion of the production of doctorates in nursing to replenish the faculty ranks at UNC and where needed in the community colleges.

Since 2004, undergraduate enrollment in nursing programs has grown from 2,571 to 3,218, an increase of 25%; masters-level enrollment has grown from 924 to 1,544 or an increase of 67%; doctoral enrollment has grown from 66 to 116, an increase of 76%.

### **UNC Nursing Degrees Conferred**

Overall all degree production has been on a definite upswing. At all levels, UNC institutions produced 1,178 nursing graduates in 2002-03, the base year for nursing expansion. That number increased to 2,231 in 2009-10, which was an increase of 89% over the base year. Pre-licensure nursing production has grown to 1,112 from 686 in the base year an increase of 62%. RN to BSN programs which increase the educational level of nurses has grown from 290 in the base year to 683 in 2009-10 an increase of 136%. Masters programs in nursing provide advance practice nurses and nursing faculty. There the growth has been quite incredible from 195 in the base year to 401 in 2009-10 an increase of 106%. The economic climate may slow these increases, but UNC campuses have responded to the Nursing Task Force's call to increase nursing production by 25% by going well beyond that. UNC programs are prepared to expand further to meet the need for nursing graduates at all levels in NC.

### **Expanding Nursing Education in UNC**

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine issued its report on Nursing, *Task Force on the North Carolina Nursing Workforce Report* in May 2004. The Board established a Committee on the Future of Nursing which made its report to the Board in November 2004. Both reports document the need for increasing the number of nurses in North Carolina and increasing the educational level of nurses. UNC campuses are well along in their enrollment expansion to achieve the ambitious goals approved by the Board of Governors to increase the production of nurses at every level.

### *Attachments*

cc: UNC Nursing Deans

**The University of North Carolina Nursing Examination (NCLEX-RN) Results, 1991 to 2010 (First-Time Writers Only)**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>East Carolina</b>																				
Number of Write	70	88	130	117	131	136	165	111	127	120	147	165	134	161	181	194	220	248	257	268
Number Passed	64	85	118	106	126	115	153	104	118	109	136	160	109	134	170	192	209	237	248	260
% Passed	91%	97%	91%	91%	96%	85%	93%	94%	93%	91%	93%	97%	81%	83%	94%	99%	95%	96%	96%	97%
<b>Fayetteville State</b>																				
Number of Write	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	22	61	40	27
Number Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	14	24	35	27
% Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	64%	39%	88%	100%
<b>N.C. A and T</b>																				
Number of Write	11	31	33	39	45	81	62	56	53	48	37	56	52	43	67	54	51	54	57	54
Number Passed	10	27	28	30	39	64	48	48	44	37	29	43	39	35	46	37	43	49	50	33
% Passed	91%	87%	85%	77%	87%	79%	77%	86%	83%	77%	78%	77%	75%	81%	69%	69%	84%	91%	88%	61%
<b>N.C. Central</b>																				
Number of Write	16	9	27	17	50	31	45	49	47	32	36	38	37	37	40	38	43	40	55	47
Number Passed	15	9	22	14	48	28	37	39	31	30	29	31	30	24	26	31	39	36	48	38
% Passed	94%	100%	81%	82%	96%	90%	82%	80%	66%	94%	81%	82%	81%	65%	65%	82%	91%	90%	87%	81%
<b>UNC-Chapel Hill</b>																				
Number of Write	84	107	117	112	110	119	114	134	123	123	134	161	160	152	160	155	178	187	179	220
Number Passed	78	104	104	106	107	113	109	129	110	114	126	151	149	147	150	152	166	182	174	209
% Passed	93%	97%	89%	95%	97%	95%	96%	96%	89%	93%	94%	94%	93%	97%	94%	98%	93%	97%	97%	95%
<b>UNC-Charlotte</b>																				
Number of Write	75	97	120	110	101	103	105	73	77	92	71	76	83	88	88	87	58	90	102	110
Number Passed	69	92	96	90	96	95	95	64	71	76	67	65	74	63	68	84	55	82	82	93
% Passed	92%	95%	80%	82%	95%	92%	90%	88%	92%	83%	94%	86%	89%	72%	77%	97%	95%	91%	80%	85%
<b>UNC-Greensboro</b>																				
Number of Write	73	89	85	102	79	77	91	78	95	91	84	80	75	80	87	86	84	93	91	88
Number Passed	67	84	75	91	76	71	88	68	85	75	77	78	71	64	81	80	77	83	86	75
% Passed	92%	94%	88%	89%	96%	92%	97%	87%	89%	82%	92%	98%	95%	80%	93%	93%	92%	89%	95%	85%
<b>UNC-Pembroke</b>																				
Number of Write	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	37	30	41	20
Number Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	25	24	36	19
% Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	68%	80%	88%	95%
<b>UNC-Wilmington</b>																				
Number of Write	21	30	38	58	47	69	51	62	45	56	54	51	38	47	53	70	69	100	81	96
Number Passed	20	30	37	50	46	59	45	53	38	44	49	46	34	35	50	67	61	90	75	85
% Passed	95%	100%	97%	86%	98%	86%	88%	85%	84%	79%	91%	90%	89%	74%	94%	96%	88%	90%	93%	89%
<b>Western Carolina</b>																				
Number of Write	31	30	39	34	39	33	43	32	39	45	43	41	42	42	41	55	53	54	58	58
Number Passed	28	28	39	33	38	32	33	29	37	39	41	36	30	37	36	47	41	50	55	57
% Passed	90%	93%	100%	97%	97%	97%	77%	91%	95%	87%	95%	88%	71%	88%	88%	85%	77%	93%	95%	98%
<b>Winston-Salem</b>																				
Number of Write	9	50	52	71	64	88	73	121	60	92	63	44	34	99	113	122	105	148	116	111
Number Passed	8	48	44	61	58	78	64	90	55	83	53	41	32	96	98	101	98	127	106	96
% Passed	89%	96%	85%	86%	91%	89%	88%	74%	92%	90%	84%	93%	94%	97%	87%	83%	93%	86%	91%	86%
<b>Total UNC Writers</b>																				
Number of Write	390	531	641	660	666	737	749	716	666	699	669	712	655	749	830	861	920	1105	1077	1099
Number Passed	359	507	563	581	634	655	672	624	589	607	607	651	568	635	725	791	828	984	995	992
% Passed	92%	95%	88%	88%	95%	89%	90%	87%	88%	87%	91%	91%	87%	85%	87%	92%	90%	89%	92%	90%

**Nursing Degree Credit Headcount Enrollment , 1998 - 2010**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
ASU													
B										28	41	36	53
ECU													
B	432	437	450	420	382	483	497	500	532	576	622	616	614
M	121	92	105	92	73	123	211	290	355	413	482	485	511
D					2	10	15	19	21	23	27	30	29
FSU													
B	44	35	26	17	13	23	49	49	85	207	95	74	36
NCA&T													
B	155	139	137	153	176	220	220	220	167	136	118	123	93
NCCU													
B	157	126	140	113	95	91	134	109	95	121	128	103	102
UNC-CH													
B	295	300	297	334	307	311	328	331	346	358	387	409	376
M	169	142	152	168	159	149	163	179	168	171	166	202	238
D	36	39	42	50	51	52	51	57	56	61	59	55	55
UNCC													
B	234	217	191	218	216	224	206	187	221	299	296	287	269
M	149	159	152	172	174	176	172	158	166	189	201	210	223
UNCG													
B	355	371	341	289	295	323	314	318	329	341	340	307	405
M	243	290	307	238	240	247	258	281	304	313	288	311	297
D								12	21	26	32	33	32
UNCP													
B	58	49	56	52	46	44	54	99	148	151	132	107	93
UNCW													
B	162	150	137	127	122	132	151	163	176	197	207	219	252
M	20	28	30	25	19	21	19	14	20	46	52	62	77
WCU													
B	157	137	122	116	119	67	133	134	192	156	216	237	240
M		30	27	41	15	29	41	49	56	73	83	92	102
WSSU													
B	252	270	212	216	201	385	485	664	554	568	545	459	685
M						50	60	63	83	110	119	103	96
UNC Total													
B	2,301	2,231	2,109	2,055	1,972	2,303	2,571	2,774	2,845	3,138	3,127	2,977	3,218
M	702	741	773	736	680	795	924	1,034	1,152	1,315	1,391	1,465	1,544
D	36	39	42	50	53	62	66	88	98	110	118	118	116

UNC-GA ProgAssess/Hlth.AT002B.U/2-1-11

Note: Upper-division undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and intermediate/specialist enrollment in the fall of each year (SDF.PR006 from FORDIR web page)

### Degrees Conferred in Nursing Programs

			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Other	ECU	Post Master's Certificate	0	0	0	4	3	4	7	4
	UNCC	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	0	0	0	7	11	12	9	8
		Post Master's Certificate	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	1
	UNCG	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
		Post Master's Certificate	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	6
	WCU	Post Master's Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	12	18	19	22	23
<b>BSN</b>										
	ASU	Bachelor's	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
	ECU	Bachelor's	133	147	167	187	203	217	232	239
	FSU	Bachelor's	0	0	0	2	8	74	37	27
	NCA&T	Bachelor's	53	42	61	46	59	56	57	53
	NCCU	Bachelor's	35	50	36	42	41	42	59	45
	UNC-CH	Bachelor's	159	164	174	171	202	220	222	246
	UNCC	Bachelor's	84	90	86	88	57	89	105	111
	UNCG	Bachelor's	78	103	94	101	87	110	101	113
	UNCP	Bachelor's	0	0	0	0	35	28	35	20
	UNCW	Bachelor's	38	49	51	69	66	90	90	91
	WCU	Bachelor's	42	43	42	54	54	48	53	56
	WSSU	Bachelor's	64	100	118	148	292	147	118	111
	<b>Total</b>		686	788	829	908	1,104	1,125	1,109	1,112
<b>MSN</b>										
	ECU	Master's	31	15	33	56	76	80	111	110
	UNC-CH	Master's	62	50	46	67	60	57	55	61
	UNCC	Master's	54	60	48	62	56	79	40	53
	UNCG	Master's	18	121	93	88	70	107	92	87
	UNCW	Master's	7	6	9	9	2	8	19	2
	WCU	Master's	23	0	11	2	13	28	29	28
	WSSU	Master's	0	0	26	11	17	49	45	60
	<b>Total</b>		195	252	266	295	294	408	391	401
<b>PhD</b>										
	ECU	Doctor's degree-research/scholarship	0	0	1	0	5	1	1	3
	UNC-CH	Doctor's degree-research/scholarship	7	8	6	10	6	8	6	5
	UNCG	Doctor's degree-research/scholarship	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4
	<b>Total</b>		7	8	7	10	11	10	11	12
<b>RN to BSN</b>										
	ASU	Bachelor's	0	0	0	0	0	5	34	43
	ECU	Bachelor's	26	36	58	39	47	21	44	44
	FSU	Bachelor's	5	6	19	8	6	12	4	7
	NCA&T	Bachelor's	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	0
	NCCU	Bachelor's	12	4	5	0	7	4	5	3
	UNC-CH	Bachelor's	11	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
	UNCC	Bachelor's	59	52	33	23	38	73	89	94
	UNCG	Bachelor's	38	50	57	58	63	55	53	51
	UNCP	Bachelor's	17	26	13	27	21	19	21	14
	UNCW	Bachelor's	9	16	8	14	7	7	11	11
	WCU	Bachelor's	25	10	18	20	6	33	37	50
	WSSU	Bachelor's	86	81	65	169	1	231	285	366
	<b>Total</b>		290	288	276	361	196	460	583	683
<b>UNC Total</b>			1,178	1,336	1,378	1,586	1,623	2,022	2,116	2,231

**UNC-OP SDA/SDF.ER020B/26JAN11**

*Notes: 1) Nursing selected as CIP 5138*

*2) RN to BSN = Students coded RN on the SDF*

*3) BSN = Students coded Generic or AHEC on the SDF*

*4) MSN = Students coded Generic or AHEC with Degree Intent of Masters*

*5) PhD = Students with Degree Intent of PhD*